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DEC 14 1999 Attorney's Docket No.: 081862.P072

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continued Prosecution Application of )  
David A. Hughes et al. ) Examiner: A. Hsu  
Application No. 08/825,492 ) Art Unit: 2731  
Filing Date: March 28, 1997 )  
For: SCHEME FOR MERGING PARTIALLY FILLED ATM CELLS )

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U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination of this Continued Prosecution Application on the merits, please enter the following amendments.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Three times amended) A method for merging partially filled ATM cells, comprising the steps  
2. of:  
3. removing a first partially filled ATM cell from an ATM cell stream;  
4. removing a second partially filled ATM cell from the ATM cell stream; and  
5. merging the first partially filled ATM cell and the second partially filled ATM cell into a  
6. third ATM cell having a header that includes information indicative of [the] a merging method  
7. used.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

December 14, 1999

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